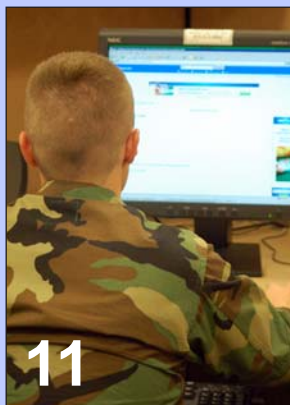


# BORDER EAGLE

Laughlin Air Force Base • Texas

54th Year • No. 30 • August 11, 2006

## Inside this issue



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Internet is valuable resource for con artists



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Friends of Family Support holds pool party for families of deployed members



Mission Capable Rates

T-1  
86.2%

T-6  
90.1%

T-38  
89.8%

AEF Stats

59 Deployed

2 Back in 30 days

14 Leaving in 30 days

Team XL's last DUI  
June 24, 2006  
It's a crime!



Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

## A family affair

Senior Airman Rebekah Mallery, 47th Communications Squadron, accepts her line number for staff sergeant from Maj. Joseph Arthur, 47th CS commander, moments after her husband, Senior Airman Sean Mallery, 47th CS, received his. The pair was one of three married couples on base to receive line numbers together. Thirty-one XLers were selected for promotion in the 2006E5 cycle.

# 31 XLers selected for E-5

By Senior Airman Austin M. May  
Staff writer

Thirty-one Laughlin members were selected for promotion to the rank of staff sergeant in the 2006E5 promotion cycle.

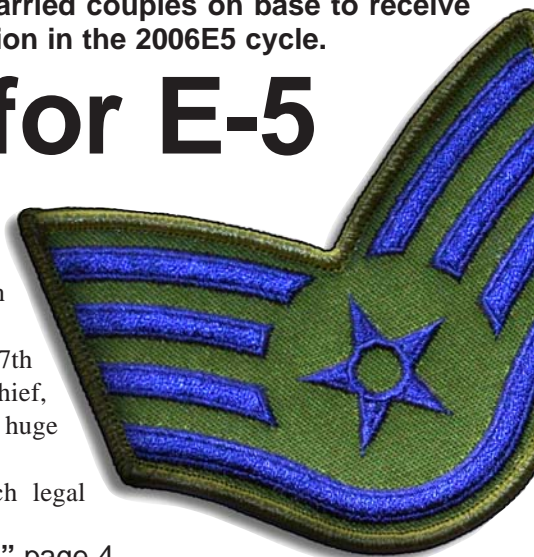
Commanders announced the results Wednesday morning.

Senior Airman Jacob Pegg, 47th Operations Support Squadron, said he was surprised when he heard he had been selected for promotion.

"This was my first time testing, and I honestly didn't think I had a chance," he said. "I was speechless when I was told I had been selected."

Chief Master Sgt. Tim Bruce, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief, said being promoted to E-5 is a huge milestone.

"A staff sergeant has as much legal



See "Staff," page 4

## Some things to ask yourself today



Commander's  
Corner

process that brought you to Laughlin. It was not the result of random and unconnected events.

This question makes you stop and actually think about what led you to Laughlin.

Your answers will tell a lot about your character and your ability to see yourself in the greater context of the role you play in the Air Force.

Are you here to learn some great skill, teach, get promoted, start a family, bond with your teenager, get over a divorce?

Could be you are here to do several things. I try to be as specific as I can in my answers. "To serve my country!" is a great answer but a little too vague.

It's better to be more specific on how I am supposed to serve. I narrow it down as much as I can. The point of the question is to make you wrestle with your own purpose for being here at Laughlin.

I believe we were all brought here to do something uniquely worthwhile. To do something that makes our Air Force strong and relevant in today's world.

The second question I ask myself is "What do I value?" What are the

things in your life that you value the most? Is it family, hard work, free time, a good reputation, your looks, being dependable, or being numero uno?

What are you willing to pay for with hard work, money or other sacrifices?

There are things in your life that you value above all others. Usually your checkbook and calendar will help answer this question.

The truth is we all value certain things and we need to remind ourselves from time to time what they are.

What you value either helps or hinders your ability to do what you answered in the first question. When you find yourself facing a major change or significant life event and you start to feel uneasy or unsure of yourself, ask yourself these questions.

After you discover why you are here and what things you truly value, ask yourself one last question.

"What are you doing about it?" I bet your friends and coworkers know what you truly value in life and why you are here at Laughlin by your actions.

It's your life and your Air Force. Make the most of them.

should have opportunities to go to college, become doctors and lawyers, own land and vote.

As immigrants continued to flood to America, a new political group called the Know-Nothings was formed in 1850.

This group at its heart was anti-immigrant. In an effort to prevent immigrants from voting, this group pushed for literacy tests because at the time most immigrants and African-Americans were illiterate.

Congress passed its next big piece of legislation in 1866 known as the 14th Amendment in an attempt to protect U.S. male residents who were at least 21 years of age from voting obstacles.

Susan B. Anthony, who was already in the public eye by this time, also founded the American Equal Rights Association in 1866 with Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

In 1869 Congress passed the 15th Amendment granting the right to vote to all men regardless of race, color or previous servitude.

However, while advancing the right to vote for minorities, this amendment specifically prohibited women from voting. In 1872 Ms. Stanton attempted to vote in direct violation of the 15th Amendment and was arrested.

A few years later in 1878 a constitutional amendment, later known as the 19th Amendment, was introduced to

## BORDER EAGLE

### Editorial Staff

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*Commander*

**Capt. Ken Hall**  
*Public Affairs chief*

**Senior Airman Austin May**  
*Staff writer/photographer*

**Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi**  
*Editor*

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**Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: [olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil) or [bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil).

### Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald by 4 p.m. each Friday at 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611.

## Believe it or not, your vote counts

**By Capt. Rick Alford**  
*386th Air Expeditionary Wing staff judge advocate*

Voting is one of the most important things a member of a democratic republic can do. The United States has a long history of voting, starting on Sept. 17, 1787, when the U.S. Constitution was adopted and the founding fathers set in place the process we now use to elect our country's presidents.

The first presidential election was held in 1789 when the Electoral College unanimously elected George Washington as president.

During the 1820s and 1830s a number of states joined the union, each with its own constitution and most with limitations that prevented women and men of any race other than white from voting.

Women such as Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Stanton formed groups that argued for women's rights in 1840. These groups took root and grew.

In 1848, the Women's Rights Convention was held in Seneca Falls, N.Y., where the attendees agreed that women

## Actionline

**Col. Mike Minahan**  
47th Flying Training  
Wing commander

**Call 298-5351 or email  
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



## Dietary supplements - a blessing or curse?

**By Col. George Nicolas**  
325th Medical Group

VANCE AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) – In our new air expeditionary force culture, an increasing number of duties and decreasing number of Airmen demand new-found levels of excellence in all areas of life.

Technical ability, time management, critical thinking and physical stamina are but a few areas we must constantly work on to operate at peak performance levels.

Being overzealous to be the best, we all look for ways to enhance ourselves. One of the areas some concentrate on most is increasing physical stamina.

A solid exercise routine, nutritionally balanced diet and rest-cycle plan is key to any physical training endeavor.

The nutritional balance portion of any plan is not real difficult for the average person, but those who want that edge can be attracted to nutritional or performance-enhancing supplements.

Today's marketing of these products can be very seductive, which is why they are so popular.

The supplements industry brings in more than \$1 trillion a year and is essen-

tially unregulated due to the 1994 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act. Manufacturers of these products are not held to content, concentration or purity standards. Just because something is deemed natural or organic does not automatically make it good for you.

There has been a recent increase in Airmen purchasing performance enhancing supplements online. It is very important that all Airmen realize these products are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration or any government entity, and many of these products are banned by Air Force regulations.

They can contain ephedrine, hemp extract or even anabolic steroids, which really carry a serious safety risk for people who use them, even short term, in hopes of increasing their physical performance.

"These products are dangerous and will often cause severe medical problems such as liver failure, kidney failure, heart damage, stroke and hormonal imbalances within a month of their use," said Capt. Richard Greco, 325th Medical Group Family Practice physician. "They can also cause sleep disturbance and even sexual dysfunction."

One \$50 bottle of a performance

enhancing supplement taken for more than a one month can easily result in \$16,000 in medical bills and lost duty time, not to mention the possibility of a liver transplant to save a life.

Many of these supplements have medicinal properties that can and do interact negatively with prescribed medication as well as directly affect critical organs like the heart, liver and kidney.

Most importantly, all Airmen should avoid commercially available performance enhancing supplements.

They are marketed under various names and often contain ingredients that are in violation of Air Force regulations and could ruin a career or a life.

While not all supplements are bad, get as much information as you can from the professionals. Research the product. A good place to start is [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov). A product that sounds too good to be true, probably is.

Airmen interested in improving their performance should make an appointment with their primary care manager and visit the health and wellness center.

If you know a fellow Airman who is taking one of these products, especially the performance enhancers, be a good wingman and advise them to stop using them and see their primary care manager.

The 47th Flying Training Wing's  
new mission statement:

**Through TEAMWORK  
and INNOVATION  
Train PROFESSIONAL  
Expeditionary  
Airpower Experts to  
Fight and Win  
America's Wars**

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## "Vote," from page 2

Congress to grant women the right to vote.

It finally passed in 1920. The 24th Amendment was passed in 1964 preventing the use of poll taxes to keep minorities from voting.

In 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, which prohibited the use of literacy tests and complicated ballot boxes.

Finally in 1971, the 26th Amendment was signed lowering the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

You may be asking yourself why I took the time to let you in on a little history behind your right to vote. The answer is simple. Your right to vote was procured through a long history of war, civil war and civil atrocities.

Men and women of every race, nationality and ethnic origin stood on the firm belief that every person has a right to have their voice heard.

As a citizen of the United States, you not only have a right to vote, you have a responsibility to vote, to have your opinions heard,

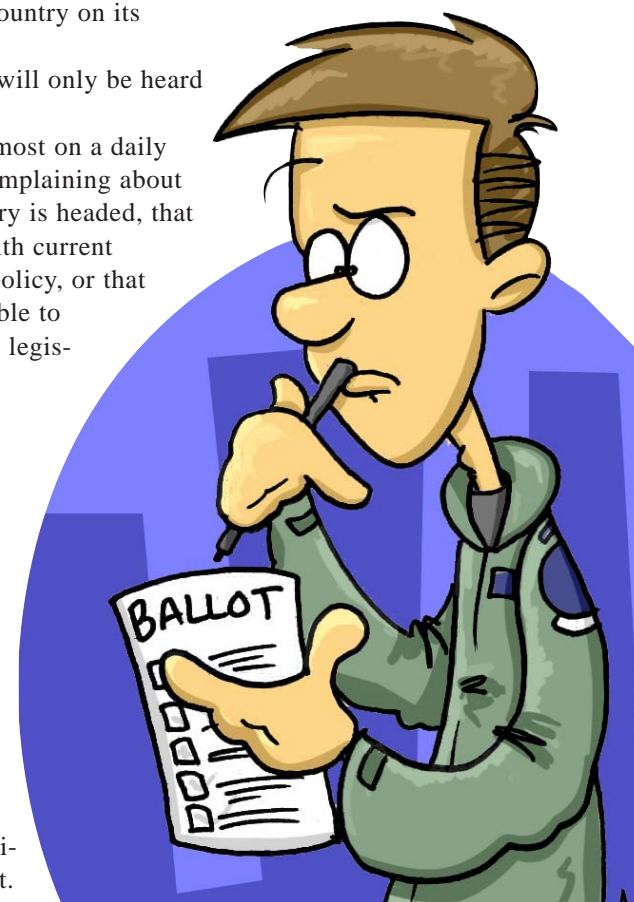
and to set this country on its next course.

Your voice will only be heard if you vote.

We hear, almost on a daily basis, people complaining about where the country is headed, that they disagree with current administration policy, or that Congress is unable to pass meaningful legislation.

However, a majority of U.S. citizens fail to vote and, in my opinion, lose their right to complain. If you don't cast a ballot, your voice will not be heard.

Get out and vote. It's your responsibility. It's your right.



# Air Force adds SRP, CJR to virtual MPF

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force will add the Selective Reenlistment and Career Job Reservation programs to the virtual Military Personnel Flight, furthering Personnel Services Delivery Transformation.

Beginning Sept 1, the automated SRP process will e-mail commanders a monthly roster notifying them of their Airmen projected for reenlistment. Commanders can choose whether or not to make Airmen ineligible for reenlistment based on quality force standards. Upon processing of the subsequent month roster, those Airmen who meet the requirements will automatically be made eligible for reenlistment.

Thirty days after the commander receives the SRP roster, provided Airmen remain eligible, the system will automatically request a CJR for Airmen in the first month of their CJR eligibility window (35th month for four-year enlistees, 59th month

for six-year enlistees) in their control Air Force Specialty Code. Airmen eligible for a CJR who are in a constrained career field will be placed on the CJR waiting list. Those who are initially deemed ineligible for reenlistment will continue to be reviewed monthly to determine if they become eligible, at which time the system will request a CJR or place the member on the CJR waiting list.

Airmen in a constrained AFSC who end up on the CJR waiting list will be able to track the status of their CJR request via a vMPF link. The link will also provide a CJR expiration date for Airmen who receive a CJR.

"The automation of the CJR process means Airmen will be reviewed as soon as they become eligible," said Capt. Jay Johnson, chief of the future operations integration branch at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "However, supervisors must

still understand the program so they can convey to Airmen how the process works or where to go for additional assistance. As always, the professionals in the Air Force Contact Center will be standing by to assist if needed."

"This move will greatly improve the process for the majority of CJR applications across the Air Force," said Tech. Sgt. Catrina Baskin, noncommissioned officer in charge of Air Force Reenlistments. "However, Airmen will still need to request a CJR through their base military personnel flight if they desire one in their secondary AFSC or for other special circumstances, such as exceptions to policy."

For more information on either program, contact the Air Force Contact Center at (800) 616-3775 (Option 1,1,2), (210) 565-5000, or DSN 665-5000.

(Air Force Print News)

## "Staff," from page 1

authority as me as a chief master sergeant," he said.

"I still remember my first day as an noncommissioned officer," the chief said. "I showed up for duty and the

commander wanted to see all of the NCOs in his office from our shift because the Airmen had trashed the dorm—and we needed to fix it! Immediate lesson for me that with authority comes responsibility."

Master Sgt. Stephen

Kazmirski, 47th Mission Support Squadron and 47th Services Squadron first sergeant, said one of the most important parts of transitioning from Airman to NCO is becoming a leader.

"To ensure mission effec-

tiveness, our NCOs must take care of our most valuable resource...people," he said.

The Air Force selected 13,298 of 37,071 eligible senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant, a 35.87 percent selection rate.

The average score for those selected was 273.15 points, with the following averages:

- 131.59 points for Enlisted Performance Reports
- 59.76 for Promotion Fitness Exam
- 53.82 for Specialty Knowledge Test
- 17.90 for time in grade
- 11.28 for time in service
- 0.83 for decorations

The average selectee has 2.02 years time in grade and 4.59 years in service. Those selected will be promoted to staff sergeant from September to August 2007.

Beginning with this promotion release Airmen who tested can view their Weighted Airman Promotion System score notices on their Air Force Portal personal page and on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight. The score notice will be on the Portal for 10 days; after that time it will only be located on vMPF.

## Newslines

### Ribbon Cutting set

Congressman Henry Bonilla will join Laughlin commander Col. Mike Minahan in cutting the ribbon from the new wing headquarters at 9 a.m. Monday. A T-38 flyover will mark the ceremony and both the congressman and commander are scheduled to give brief remarks.

Construction of the 31,300 square-foot facility began in February 2004 and wrapped up in March 2006 at a cost of \$8.2 million.

Architects carefully designed the building to essential modern force protection and security standards, and the building perfectly compliments the new Heritage Park amphitheater, finished in September 2004, creating a unified appearance in that high profile area of the base.

The new facility also earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or "LEEDS," certification because of its energy-reducing and environmentally-friendly elements, including efficient lighting and plumbing fixtures, water efficient landscaping, recycled building materials and maximum possible use of available natural lighting.

### Delays expected

Base wide Exercise Scarlet Hawk 06-05 will be held Tuesday to Thursday.

All base personnel should expect delays and minor inconveniences as they conduct business across the base as the wing exercises its ability to continue operating under adverse conditions.

For details call the Exercise Evaluation Team at 298-5205.

## 2006E5 STAFF SELECTS

<b>Caleb Jackson</b> 47th FTW/PMEL	<b>Boniface Sapno</b> 47th CS	<b>Michael Nadzieja</b> 47th CS	<b>Joshua Crowley</b> 47th MDOS
<b>Frederick Keese</b> 47th FTW/PMEL	<b>Daniel Beug</b> 47th CS	<b>Corey Martin</b> 47th CONS	<b>Sadek Brandford</b> 47th AMDS
<b>Austin May</b> 47th FTW/PA	<b>Christopher Buisman</b> 47th CS	<b>Jason Burd</b> 47th CES	<b>Dustin McCabe</b> 47th OSS
<b>Johnte Jeter</b> 47th MSG	<b>Ryan Faircloth</b> 47th CS	<b>Jesse Pulsifer</b> 47th CES	<b>Jacob Pegg</b> 47th OSS
<b>Renato DeJesus</b> 47th MSG	<b>Matthew Hutkowski</b> 47th CS	<b>Karen Pulsifer</b> 47th CES	<b>Daniel Ruiz</b> 47th OSS
<b>Brian Matosky</b> 47th MSG	<b>Bruce Lee</b> 47th CS	<b>Steven Rusnak</b> 47th CES	<b>Jason King</b> 86th FTS
<b>Gennica Matosky</b> 47th MSG	<b>Rebekah Mallery</b> 47th CS	<b>Sandra Giddens</b> 47th MDSS	<b>Nick Scott</b> 86th FTS
<b>Adam Battin</b> 47th SFS	<b>Sean Mallery</b> 47th CS	<b>Tamara Opalinski</b> 47th MDSS	

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298-4355.



1X1

# GRADUATION



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Capt. Gerad Riester  
C-17  
McChord AFB, Wash.



1st Lt. Elia Hickie  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Michael Arnold  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Brian Ashburn  
E-8  
Robins AFB, Ga.



2nd Lt. Andrew Calhoun  
KC-135  
Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Xavier Cardona  
C-130 (ANG)  
Puerto Rico.



2nd Lt. Christopher Duhon  
B-1B  
Dyess AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Marcus Durham  
C-17  
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Keane Fillipi  
KC-135E (ANG)  
Sioux City ANG, Iowa



2nd Lt. Peter Haubein  
KC-135 (AFRES)  
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Justin Hrynyk  
C-17  
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Hutto  
F-15E  
Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. William Keleher  
E-3  
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Sarah Kugele  
T-38C  
Laughlin AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Bradley Lane  
C-17  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Alexander MacPhail  
KC-10  
McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Derek Mapes  
C-17  
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Valerio Marrama  
Undesignated  
Italian air force



2nd Lt. Erika Palmer  
KC-135  
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Adam Sereika  
C-17 (AFRES)  
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Nicholas Suppa  
F-15E  
Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Emily White  
T-6A  
Laughlin AFB, Texas

# Thrift Savings Plan augments retirement

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- The Thrift Savings Plan's automatic and matching contributions form a key part of the Federal Employees' Retirement System, or FERS, offering federal civilian employees opportunities to increase their retirement income.

FERS civilian Thrift Savings Plan account holders automatically receive a deposit equal to 1 percent of their basic pay each pay period once they are eligible. They also receive matching agency contributions up to 4 percent if they contribute at least 5 percent of their own money.

"These payments into a FERS employee's account along with the Thrift Savings Plan's investment flexibility and fund options make it a potentially valuable part of a retirement nest egg," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

The other two parts of the FERS retirement program consist of a basic benefit plan, which considers basic pay, length of service and other factors to determine a monthly

annuity and Social Security benefits.

TSP, also open to Civil Service Retirement System federal employees, provides two investment programs for civilians: regular TSP contributions and TSP catch-up contributions for eligible employees age 50 and older.

Some plan highlights for 2006 include:

■Employees covered by FERS and CSRS may contribute up to \$15,000 to a regular TSP account. They may designate any whole percentage of basic pay or a whole dollar amount each pay period. However, if a whole dollar amount is designated and the amount exceeds remaining salary after mandatory and other voluntary deductions that occur ahead of TSP contributions, no TSP contributions will be withheld, and, if FERS, no agency matching contributions will be received.

■People age 50 or older, in a pay status, and who can certify they have contributed (or will contribute) the full \$15,000 maximum to a regular TSP account or other 401(k) plan may contribute an additional \$5,000 as catch-up contribu-

tions. ■Eligible individuals may enroll, change, stop or resume catch-up or regular contributions at any time during the year.

■The last day civilians may submit a catch-up contribution election for calendar year 2006 is Dec. 9. Catch-up contribution enrollment for 2007 will be available beginning Dec 10.

"To maximize agency matching contributions, FERS employees must contribute an amount equal to 5 percent of their basic pay each pay period," Ms. Thomas said. "Early large contribution attempts to maximize earnings usually fall short of the value of lost agency matching contributions."

Air Force-serviced civilians will submit enrollment elections or changes for regular TSP or catch-up contributions via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application or the BEST automated phone system. Instructions on how to access these systems are on the BEST Web site.

*(Courtesy of Air Force  
Personnel Center  
News Service)*

2X3

2X4

2X4

2X3

1X3

# 'Your Guardians of Freedom' site set to scale down Oct. 1

**By Tech. Sgt.  
Rob Mims**  
*Air Reserve Personnel  
Center Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Budget constraints and contract services reductions have forced officials to make changes to the "Your Guardians of Freedom" Web site starting Oct. 1.

The Web site enables Air Force members to order pins for employers of activated Guardsmen (E pin), parents (P pin) and spouses (S pin). Pin recipients also receive a personalized letter signed by the Air Force secretary and chief of staff thanking them for supporting the Airman's service.

The pins are a contemporary adaptation of the World War II "E" flags used to recognize companies for contributions to the war effort.

The program was established

in November 2001 to recognize employer support of activated Guard and Reserve Airmen. It expanded in 2003 to recognize parents of total force Airmen, spouses of Airmen and Air Force civilians.

"To date more than 833,000 pins have been delivered," said Capt. Tynisha Jones-Vincent, YGOF program manager. "Basic training and officer accessions have been the biggest customers of the program."

Enlisted and officer accessions will continue to have the opportunity to order and present the "P" pin to their parents or "S" pin to their spouses at their graduations.

The change to the program leaves it open only to new accessions. Other members have until Oct. 1 to use the Web site for placing orders.

"Members still have two

months to order parent pins; we will make sure all orders and back-orders received through Oct. 1 are fulfilled," Captain Jones-Vincent said.

The next phase of the program will include a new user-friendly Web site. The "S" pin will continue to be available to order online for active-duty members through the Air Force Portal. This will allow Air Force members who have married since joining the service the opportunity to order a spouse pin.

The "E" pin will no longer be available after the Oct. 1 deadline.

Additionally, "My Mommy is an Airmen" and "My Daddy is an Airmen" books are available for distribution through base agencies. These books are aimed at elementary-aged children to help give them a better understanding of the Air Force as children of deployed Airmen.

## Are you pretty good with a bowstaff?

Come show off your skills at the Fiesta Center's Family and Teen Talent Show Oct. 28. There are lots of categories, so call 298-5474 or 298-5224 for details. Acts must sign up no later than August 20.

### Categories include:

Parent and youth team,  
husband and wife  
team, children  
solo and  
group acts,  
preteen solo  
and group acts,  
teen solo acts (vocal,  
instrumental and  
performance/specialty),  
teen group acts and a  
family act. Call the Fiesta  
Center for age groups!



# Congress approves separation incentives for officers; no decision for enlisted Airmen

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- As part of the Air Force's Force Shaping Program initiatives, officers are being offered voluntary separation pay to leave the service earlier than scheduled, said an Air Force officer here recently. VSP allows government agencies that are downsizing or restructuring to offer employees a lump-sum payment to voluntarily separate.

The Air Force goal for fiscal year 2007 is to approve approximately 3,200 officers for VSP. There is currently no equivalent plan for enlisted Airmen. Under current public law the Air Force can't offer VSP to enlisted personnel.

The 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by Congress, authorized all military services to pay officers with six to 12 years of service to voluntarily separate in order to assist the services in their force-shaping efforts. The amount authorized is double what officers would get for involuntary separation pay.

While officials can't predict if more incentives will be offered in the future, they have asked Congress for additional legislation to expand VSP to enlisted and to officers with six to less than 20 years of service, according to Lt. Col. William Hampton, chief of retirements and separa-

tions branch at the Pentagon.

Even if Congress approves VSP for enlisted Airmen, a decision to implement the program would depend on several factors, said Colonel Hampton.

"If we reach our enlisted end-strength goal through the use of current programs, or our fiscal resources are limited even more, we won't offer incentives," he said.

Current plans for shaping the enlisted force include reducing the number of accessions, or new Airmen being recruited, and continued use of the Career Job Reservations and NCO Retraining Program to reach targeted goals.

Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley stressed it is important for all Airmen to understand the reasons behind force shaping.

"Our nation is at war, fighting global terrorism with the oldest fleet of aircraft in our history," he said. "We are at a critical time and must modernize and recapitalize our force and our aircraft. It comes down to prioritizing.

"We have to win this war, and more importantly, win the next," Chief McKinley said. "The challenge is doing this within a limited budget. Right now we must put money into our

aircraft and that means we need to shift money from other areas. We have to live within our budget."

The chief said the Air Force must shape the force smartly to ensure we keep, "the right people in the right job at the right time, while improving the capability of our Air and Space force." With financial resources scarce throughout DOD, all branches of the military are grappling with force structure and mission requirements.

Many Airmen remember the early 1990s when Congress passed legislation allowing the Air Force to offer both officers and enlisted lump sum or installment payments to leave the Air Force early, the chief said. That legislation has since expired. Officials say the 2006 Force Shaping Program is different. The end goal is not simply to make the Air Force smaller but to be a more efficient Air Force ready and capable of meeting tomorrow's challenges.

Enlisted Airmen should not be waiting for monetary incentives to drive their career decisions, according to Chief McKinley.

"They need to keep informed about changes that could affect their career path, ask questions and make informed

decisions," said the chief. "Not every Airmen will be able to remain in our service, and not everyone will be able to continue in the job they're in today. But what we do need is every Airman to be committed to doing the best job they can for our Air Force

and our country. Our way of life we enjoy as Americans today and for generations to come depends on it."

*(Courtesy Air Force  
Personnel Center  
News Service)*

DRNH  
FILLER

# Internet is valuable resource for con artists

**By Susan Griggs**  
*81st Training Wing  
Public Affairs*

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AETCNS) -- Scams may have changed, but tried-and-true advice remains — let the buyer beware, all that glitters is not gold, and if something seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The Justice Department notes that fraud schemes that have victimized consumers for many years now appear online, offering thieves a faster way to carry out their plans.

Scam artists use e-mail, chat rooms, message boards or Web sites to present fraudulent proposals to prospective victims, conduct fraudulent transactions and transfer the proceeds to financial institutions or others connected with the crime.

With the explosive growth of online commerce, criminals try to present fraudulent schemes in ways that look virtually identical to the goods and services offered by legitimate online merchants.

Keesler Federal Credit Union officials warn sellers to be aware of con artists who respond to online and print classified advertisements for items being sold for more than \$500.

The crook poses as a buyer and sends a bogus check or money order in excess of the agreed sales price. He asks the victim to cash the check, keep a portion to cover shipping or other expenses and return the remainder. Sometimes the

“buyer” says that he made a mistake in the check amount and asks the seller to return the difference.

Credit union representatives stress there’s no legitimate reason for someone who is giving you money to ask you to send money back. Customers are responsible for the checks they deposit, so they should never accept a check or money order for more than the selling price. If a check bounces, the financial institution deducts the amount the amount that was originally credited to the account.

Recently, a Keesler member sought assistance from the Air Force Aid Society in handling the financial fallout from one of these counterfeit check scams, according to acting AFAS officer Jackie Pope.

“This person said other people they knew had been conned in similar scenarios,” she said.

The Better Business Bureau also notes that there’s been a surge of fraudulent cross-border lottery notifications that involve counterfeit checks.

E-mail notices announce that recipients have won a significant amount of money in a foreign sweepstakes. They’re given a phone number to call and are instructed to cash certified checks ranging from \$2,000 to \$6,000 in order to collect their “entire award package”, then told to wire the money or send their own check back to the lottery company to cover taxes and fees.

After the certified checks have been cashed, consumers have been notified the

checks were counterfeit and they were liable for the withdrawn funds.

E-mail “phishing” is one way that people are conned into providing private information that can be used for identity theft. Phishing is a play on words for “fishing” -- large numbers of people receive a message and most ignore it, but unsuspecting customers may take the bait.

Usually the e-mail directs readers to a bogus Web site where they’re asked to update personal information such as passwords and credit card, Social Security and bank account numbers that legitimate organizations already have.

KFCU reports one recent phishing scam involves an e-mail which falsely appears to be from a credit union. It asks members to complete a survey and promises a \$5 credit to the members’ account for participating. When the survey is completed, the respondent is directed to provide an account number for the \$5 deposit.

“There’s always a possibility that when you’re asked for credit card numbers or other personal data online, your information may not be used for legitimate purposes,” said attorney Dick Brock of the 81st Training Wing legal office.

Mr. Brock is among the Keesler people who often receive e-mail solicitations asking them to get involved in bogus international financial transactions.

A recent message he received claimed to be from a 73-year-old child-

less widow dying of cancer whose husband, who was supposedly killed by terrorists in Afghanistan, left her \$12 million which she wants to donate to the underprivileged and to spread Christianity’s message. She asks the recipient to contact her lawyer by e-mail to arrange the funds transfer.

“This is just one example of someone trying to get your personal information to defraud you,” Mr. Brock said. “They may claim to originate from England, Nigeria, the Netherlands or any other foreign country. Some may ask you to assist someone who wants to come to the United States, and you’ll be paid for your services. The stories may change, but the scam is still there.

“The smartest thing to do is to delete those messages immediately,” he said.

Online auctions are another possible way that consumers are swindled. Internet auction fraud makes up more than 62 percent of the complaints received by the Internet Crime Complaint Center, a partnership of the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center.

“Some buyers fail to receive any merchandise whatsoever,” said Steve Cole, president of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. “Others receive an item that in no way resembles what was advertised. There are buyers who report being misled about the terms of the sale and bidders who were tricked into using fake escrow sites when paying for their purchases.”

## Staff Sgt. Laurie Flores 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi



**Hometown:** Erie, Pa.  
**Family:** Husband, Jerry Flores, son, Jerry and daughter, Chloe  
**Time in Service:** Eight years  
**Time at Laughlin:** Two years, 2 months  
**Greatest Accomplishment:** Giving birth to my beautiful children  
**Favorite movie(s):** Pride and Prejudice  
**Hobbies:** Watching movies and spending time with my family  
**Bad habits:** Being nosey  
**If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?:** My husband because we rarely get a moment alone together.

**"Staff Sgt. Laurie Flores is a great asset to our unit (the 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron's Aerospace Physiology.) She excels in all tasks, and she has been instrumental in the upgrade training of all her unit's three-level Airmen. She is an epitome of a true Xler."**

...Master Sgt. Dora Caniglia,  
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

### Commanders and supervisors:

Do you have an Airman who exemplifies the Air Force Core Values? If so, nominate them to be the Border Eagle's XLER! Any E-1 to E-7, O-1 to O-3 or civilian is eligible. Send nominees to [bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil) or call 298-5262. For retirees or other time-sensitive nominations, be sure to give us at least two weeks advance notice. Thanks!



## New Web portal to help enlisted career development

By Staff Sgt.  
Julie Weckerlein  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Enlisted Airmen will soon have a new development Web site portal designed to meet all of their career development needs, allowing them to navigate different aspects of their time in service from their desktop computers, Air Force officials here said.

My Enlisted Development Plan, or MyEDP, is designed as the Air Force's cradle-to-grave enlisted developmental tool. From their first day of duty to their last, enlisted Airmen will enjoy features of the site designed to provide standardization in every aspect of their career progression.

"MyEDP is a major force development technology step for our enlisted force," said Maj.

Kirk Phillips, chief of senior leader information technology operational support. "We've applied dynamic Internet technology to leverage what we currently have in place to quickly provide robust self-service capabilities to our Airmen across the globe through the Air Force Portal."

He said larger enterprise integration and transformation efforts will occur behind the

scenes.

"For the first time, MyEDP connects force development initiatives in a seamless framework, which may set a new standard for all of our future force development efforts," Major Phillips said.

One of the goals of MyEDP is to combine data from multiple sources to provide Airmen a complete view of all their data and information.

"Similarly, it provides Airmen a single entry point through the Air Force Portal," said Senior Master Sgt. Bill Thomaston, chief of enlisted force development. "From Community College of the Air Force to on-the-job training to leadership development, our Airmen won't have to worry about 'which system' anymore.

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Photo by Senior Airman Austin M. May

# MAKING A BIG SPLASH



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

**Clockwise from left:** Children of deployed XLers enjoy pizza provided by the Friends of Family Support, a non-profit branch of the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Saturday; Bradley and Joy Thompson, 5 and 7 respectively, children of Holly and Maj. Steve Thompson, 96th Flying Training Squadron, talk to their dad before jumping into Friendship Pool; Christine Drotts, Social Services Assistant for the AFRC, cuts cake for the families of deployed members at their pool party. The FoFS put on the party to help families of deployed members get out and socialize with each other, and to have a good time. Gift bags filled with school supplies and pool toys were handed out to the kids, and pizza, cake and drinks were provided. Five families attended the party, which was held from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday.

# Officials announce clarification of EPR criteria, policy

by Master Sgt.  
Mitchell L. Gettle  
*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The Air Force has released a policy to clarify senior rater endorsement and stratification procedures for enlisted performance reports.

While many supervisors and senior NCOs looked to completion of the Senior NCO Academy and a Community College of the Air Force degree as criteria for consideration of a senior rater endorsement for promotion to the ranks of senior and chief master sergeant, no official policy existed.

The new policy clarifies and standardizes criteria for endorsement and stratification statements. It requires members to have Senior NCO Academy completion, correspondence or in-residence, and any CCAF degree for senior rater endorsement eligibility. The policy notes that meeting these requirements is not a guarantee for senior rater endorsement.

The implementation dates will be for the calendar year 2007 chief master sergeant and

calendar year 2008 senior master sergeant promotion cycles. This transition time provides senior NCOs the opportunity to complete the requirements, said Chief Master Sgt. Tenda Voegtle, chief of enlisted evaluations and promotions policy.

The CCAF degree is an occupational education degree. Specific programs are designed to provide students with the necessary backgrounds to perform as competent supervisors in their field.

"This policy re-emphasizes the importance of deliberate and timely (professional military education) and CCAF completion for our enlisted force, formally instills the developmental expectation, and ensures a consistent policy for senior rater endorsement eligibility across the Air Force," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley.

Stratification statements on EPRs will also change. Statements will only be allowed on EPR's of those master sergeant and senior master sergeants who are time-in-grade promotion eligible for senior rater endorsement.

Stratification statements on all other EPRs, to include chief master sergeant reports, is prohibited. Instead of stratification statement use on chief master sergeant EPRs, evaluators will focus comments on future job recommendations.

"As a result of the perception that stratification is required for promotion, raters have started using multiple, uncontrolled stratification schemes that only add to the confusion promotion board members feel when trying to identify the right people for pro-

motion," said Lt. Gen. Roger A. Brady, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel.

"To ensure stratification statements remain a valuable tool, we must ensure they are limited and used in the proper context," said General Brady, who personally discussed the issue with major command vice commanders and command chief master sergeants.

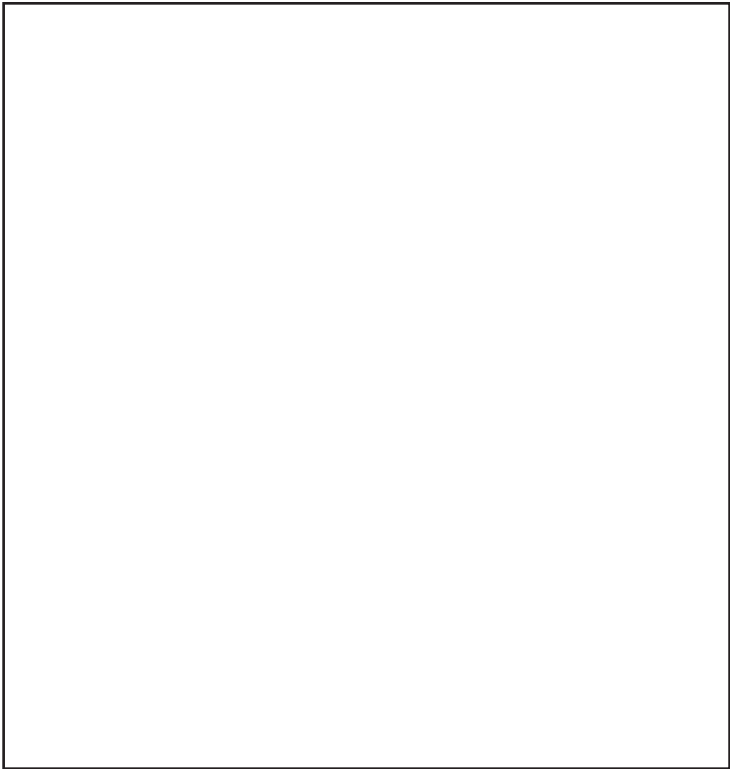
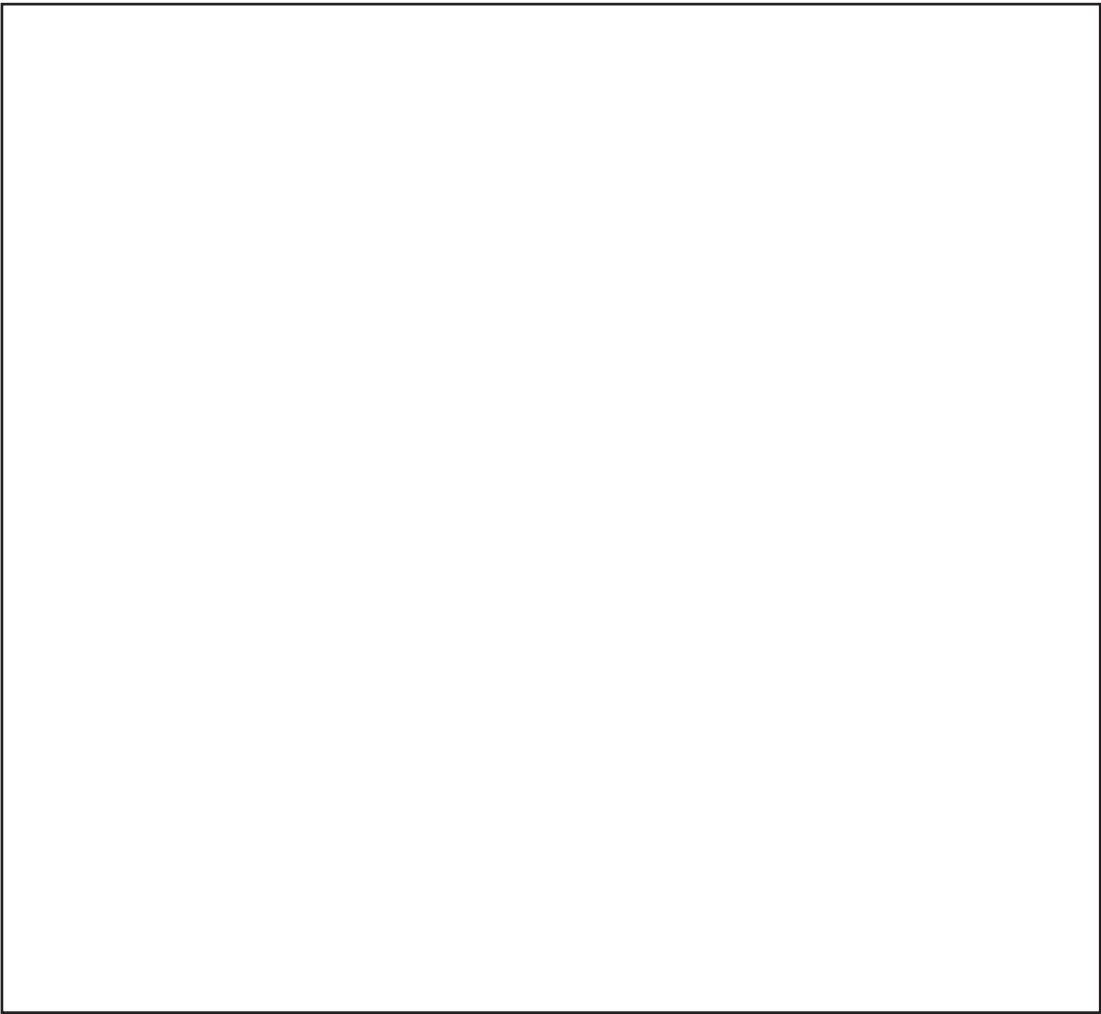
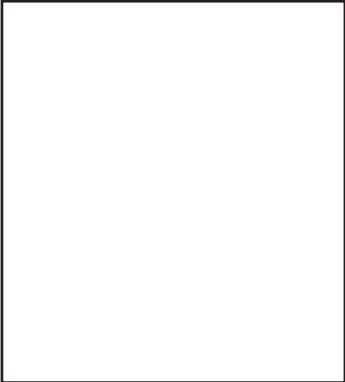
If a stratification statement is used, it will be defined in quantitative terms, such as "No. 1 of 178 master sergeants in the wing." Statements based on per-

centage or best in career field are no longer allowed.

This policy also states that evaluators will stratify master sergeants and senior master sergeants separately and should only consider the number assigned within their rating scope.

This policy will be included in the revision to Air Force Instruction 36-2406, Officer and Enlisted Evaluation Systems.

*(Courtesy Air Force Personnel Center News Service)*





*Photo by Airman Christopher Griffin*

**Airman 1st Class Kristin Ferris positions herself in the brush during an exercise at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, on Aug. 8. Airman Ferris is one of five enlisted female snipers in the Air Force and participated in a training exercise to eliminate a terrorist in a hostage situation. She is assigned to the 354th Security Forces Squadron.**

Career, from page 12

They'll have one Air Force learning environment with one look and feel at their fingertips."

MyEDP will also provide Airmen critical career field and grade-specific information managed directly by each career field manager. It will also provide commanders a view of key Airman knowledge, skills and abilities, empowering them to effectively mentor and coach Airmen under their command.

"MyEDP integrates several personnel service delivery transformation initiatives and creates opportunities for leadership at all levels to reach out (to) Airmen directly and guide them on the appropriate paths," said Senior Master Sgt. Bob Angeli, manager of enlisted force development. "It highlights the dual track development process -- technical and professional -- that we use for the enlisted force."

MyEDP is targeted for every Airman at every developmental milestone, and allows each Airman to look at their current

developmental progress and provides insight into future requirements for each stage of their career.

Airmen will be able to determine at what point in their careers they may take on special duty assignments, such as recruiter, military training instructor, professional military education instructor, technical training instructor or first sergeant, Sergeant Angeli said.

"They'll also be able to determine which classes they need to finish their degrees, or see when they become eligible for certain types of professional military education," he said.

All aspects of the enlisted journey are captured in the foundational areas of education.

"Development is a long-term Air Force investment in you and your career, and measuring its success is in your personal growth and mission accomplishment," Sergeant Thomaston said. "The enlisted heritage of development is strong, and as we look to our horizons we now see exciting new roadmaps for success."

# Top chief elaborates on Airman pride

by Staff Sgt.  
**Jeremy Larlee**  
*Air Force Print News*

SAN ANTONIO-- The top enlisted Airman shared his thoughts on Airman pride during his visit here.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley was in San Antonio to check out basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and security forces expeditionary training at nearby Camp Bullis.

The chief was impressed with the training he witnessed and said that it is vital to the Air Force's ever-increasing expeditionary nature.

"The warrior ethos that we are teaching now and integrating into basic training is very important," he said.

While at Lackland, he witnessed the presentation of the Airman's Coin to the basic trainees in their final week of training.

"We tell them during that coin ceremony that from this day on we are going to call them Airman," Chief McKinley said. "But sometimes, we get them to their first duty station and we call them kids. We call them troops. We call them

the cats and dogs of the dorms. And they're not. They're Airmen."

The chief's thoughts on Airman pride also touch on how people represent the Air Force.

"It's pride in how you wear your uniform, how seriously you take your physical fitness and pride in your unit, base and local community," he said. "Be the whole-person Airman."

The Air Force core values are good to reference for anybody who doesn't understand how to be the best Airman, the chief said.

"The things that are our basic framework like discipline, standards and customs and courtesies, these things we learned in basic training, we need to carry on and use," Chief McKinley said.

An example of this is the disgraceful mobs that often gather just inside the doors of buildings on bases across the country, right before retreat is played. The chief believes that Airmen should be eager for the opportunity to honor the flag and their nation.

"Be proud to be an Airman and proud to live in this great country of ours," he said.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cecilio M. Ricardo Jr.*

**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley congratulates an Airman during the Airman's coin ceremony at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, on Aug. 7. The ceremony marks the transition of a trainee to an Airman. Chief McKinley was a speaker during the ceremony.**



# FIRST AIR FORCE WEEK KICKS OFF IN ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The first Air Force Week kicked off here Aug. 6 during the St. Louis Cardinals-Milwaukee Brewers game at Busch Stadium with Airmen participating in the toss of the first pitch and a flyover by Missouri National Guard F-15 Eagles.

Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz, commander of U.S. Transportation Command, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney McKinley and Airman 1st Class Rebecca Blascak, a 375th Airlift Wing Logistics Readiness Squadron member who recently returned from Iraq, participated in the ceremonial first pitch.

Following the playing of the national anthem, two F-15 Eagles from the Missouri National Guard's 131st Fighter Wing at Lambert Field flew over the stadium, greeted with cheers and applause from the audience.

While the Air Force involvement in Sunday's game unofficially kicked off the week, Mayor Francis Slay today signed a proclamation officially declaring it Air Force Week in St. Louis.

The purpose of Air Force week is to raise public awareness of the service's operations, capabilities and support of the war on terrorism; showcase Airmen; and thank the public for its heartfelt support of Air Force men and women.

"The activities (of Air Force Week) provide a remarkable opportunity for the Air Force to demonstrate the pride and professionalism of the greatest air and space force the world has ever known," said Air Force Chief of Staff General T. Michael Mosley. "I invite everyone in the greater St. Louis area to come out and enjoy Air Force Week activities," he said.

Other events scheduled during the week include:

■ Appearances at the St. Louis Science Center by a NASA astronaut and Louis Lynch, one of original Tuskegee Airmen, on Aug. 8; a pilot from the IMAX movie "Fighter Pilot: Operation RED FLAG" on Aug. 9; and members of the Air Force's precision flying team, the Thunderbirds, on Aug. 10. "Fighter Pilot" will also be shown twice daily at the center.

■ A "Salute to the Air Force" Aug. 8 at the Gateway Grizzlies' game against the Traverse City Beach Bums in Sauget, Ill., which will include a C-17 Globemaster III flyover. Admission to the game is free for all active-duty members, retirees and their family members.

■ A flyover of downtown St. Louis, including some of its key landmarks such as the Arch and Busch Stadium, on Aug. 10. The



**Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley presents an Air Force bear to Maxine Clark of St. Louis at a Cardinals game Aug. 6. The game kicked off Air Force Week in St. Louis.**

flyover will include a B-2 Spirit bomber, a C-130J, a KC-135 Stratotanker and the Thunderbirds.

The week will be capped off Aug. 12-13 with an open house and Air Fest at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. In addition to the Thunderbirds, the air show will include fighter and transport air-

craft flyovers, parachute jumps, numerous static displays and other demonstrations. The event is free and open to the public.

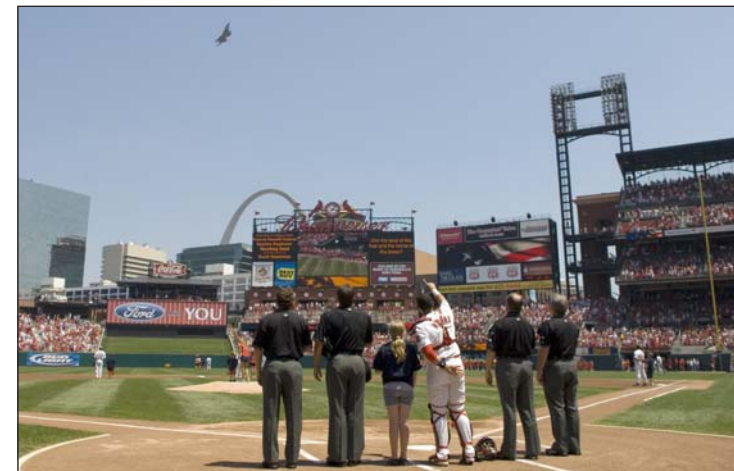
For more information on Air Force Week events, visit [www.afweek.af.mil](http://www.afweek.af.mil).

*(Courtesy Air Force Print News)*



*Photos by Master Sgt. Jack Braden*

**St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay signs a proclamation today declaring Aug. 6-13 as Air Force Week in St. Louis. Attending the ceremony were (from left) Col. Bob Leeker, 131st Fighter Wing commander; Lt. Gen. Christopher A. Kelly, Air Mobility Command vice commander; Col. Allen Hunt Jr., 375th Airlift Wing commander; Lewis Lynch, Hugh J. White Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen; Col. Pete Nezamis, 126th Air Refueling Wing commander; and retired Col. John P. Morgan, Hugh J. White Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.**



**An F-15 Eagle from the 131st Fighter Wing based at St. Louis International Airport flies over opening ceremonies of the St. Louis Cardinals game at Busch Stadium on Aug. 6.**